

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMSMBASSY LUSAKA 2026

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1344

E.O.11652: XGDS (2)

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO, TZ

SUBJ: TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL VIEWS EVENTS IN
PORTUGAL

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR FON. MIN. OFFICIAL PRIVATELY CONFIDED THAT
TANZANIA IS HOPEFUL PORTUGUESE AFRICAN QUESTION CAN NOW BE SETTLED
PEACEFULLY IN CONTEXT OF LUSAKA MANIFESTO. TANZANIA WILL NOT INSIST
UPON EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATION WITH EXTERNALLY-BASED LIBERATION GROUPS.
NYERERE IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO PLAY CONCILIATORY ROLE VIS-A-VIS
LIBERATION GROUPS IF PORTUGAL APPEARS SINCERE IN ULTIMATELY GRANT-
ING INDEPENDENCE TO AFRICAN TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMB. OFF. HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSION MAY 2 ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND HER AFRICAN TERRITORIES WITH PAUL RUPA, FON. MIN. DIR. FOR AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. RUPA, WHO IS ONE OF MOST ARTICULATE AND MODERATE ELEMENTS IN FOM. MIN., EXPLAINED THAT TANGOV SEES REAL HOPE QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES CAN BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY IN ACCORDANCE 1969 LUSAKA MANIFESTO NOW THAT GENERAL SPINOLA HAD TAKEN CONTROL. EMB. OFF. COUNTERED THAT IT APPEARED TO OUTSIDE OBSERVERS THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA HAD DISCARDED LUSAKA MANIFESTO IN RECENT YEARS. RUPA ADMITTED THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC MENTION OF IT, ADDING THAT PRIVATELY TANZANIA HAS CONTINUED TO EXPRESS HOPE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION CAN BE SETTLED AS SET FORTH IN MANIFESTO. (BRITISH HC OFFICER AFFIRMED RECENTLY THAT NYERERE PRIVATELY TOLD FORMER FCO SECRETARY OF STATE DOUGLAS-HOME DURING VISIT TO TANZANIA IN FEBRUARY THAT TANZANIA STILL HOLDS OUT HOPE FOR LUSAKA MANIFESTO). RUPA ADDED THAT UNTIL SPINOLA TAKEOVER IN PORTUGAL THERE WAS NO REAL HOPE THAT INDEPENDENCE IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES COULD COME ABOUT PEACEFULLY. SPINOLA HAS NOW REVIVED THESE HOPES AND THUS LUSAKA MANIFESTO IS BEING MENTIONED PUBLICLY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT APRIL 29 EDITORIAL ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL CARRIED IN BOTH TANZANIAN PAPERS, RUPA SAID IT WAS IN FACT GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, NOT NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL (DAR ES SALAAM 1303). HE NOTED IT WAS WRITTEN IN STATE HOUSE, QUITE PROBABLY BY NYERERE HIMSELF. (TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPT., LISBON, LUANDA, AND LOURENCO MARQUES).

4. REFERRING TO EDITORIAL, EMB. OFF. COMMENTED THAT TANZANIA SEEMED TO BE TAKING HARDLINE POSITION BY INSISTING THAT SPINOLA DEAL ONLY WITH PAIGC, FRELIMO, AND MPLA. HE ASKED IF TANZANIA OPPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, AND PORTUGUESE GUINEA. RUPA REPLIED, TO CONTRARY, NYERERE HAS PRIVATELY STATED HE WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE FRELIMO TO NEGOTIATE WITH PORTUGAL EVEN IF OTHER GROUPS TOOK PART IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED TANZANIA APPRECIATES THAT INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT COME TO TERRITORIES IMMEDIATELY, ADDING THAT IT MAY TAKE AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS. BUT AS LONG AS PORTUGAL MAKES SINCERE EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE AND INCLUDES LIBERATION GROUPS IN NEGOTIATIONS, TANZANIA WILL PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. IF PORTUGAL EXCLUDES LIBERATION GROUPS FROM NEGOTIATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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TANZANIA WOULD THEN OPPOSE ANY DEALINGS WITH PORTUGAL AND CONTINUE TO AID GROUPS SUCH AS FRELIMO.

5. ALTHOUGH RUPA SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR FRELIMO, HE THOUGHT FRELIMO WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE FOR INDEPENDENCE WITH PORTUGUESE, IF NOT JOINTLY WITH OTHER CONTENDING GROUPS SUCH AS COREMO AND GUMO, THEN, CONCURRENTLY AND INDEPENDENTLY. HE NOTED WAR IN MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN EXPENSIVE FOR BOTH FRELIMO AND

TANZANIA, NOT TO MENTION PORTUGAL. HE ARGUED THAT ALL PARTIES WANT TO BRING IT TO END. FURTHERMORE, RUIA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FRELIMO BELIEVES IT CAN GAIN DOMINANT POSITION IN DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING VARIOUS MOZAMBIQUAN GROUPS.

6. RUIA CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT TANZANIA WILL CLOSELY FOLLOW EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND HER AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE SAID TANGOV WILL BE INTERESTED IN ROLE OF COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO PORTUGAL SUCH AS US, PARTICULARLY ADVICE THEY OFFER IN WEEKS AHEAD. EMB. OFF. COMMENTED US HAS ANNOUNCED CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. ALSO REITERATED US HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED IT BELIEVES PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD BE GOVERNING FACTOR WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

7. COMMENT: RUIA, AND PRESUMABLY SOME OTHER KEY PEOPLE IN TANGOV, SEE SPINOLA'S RISE TO POWER AS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR ENDING WARS IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH TANZANIA WILL INSIST THAT LIBERATION GROUPS PLAY KEY ROLE IN ANY PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LISBON, IT WILL PROBABLY NOT HOLD OUT FOR EXCLUSIVE ROLE BY SUCH GROUPS. IT APPEARS THAT AT THIS MOMENT NYERERE IS EVEN PREPARED TO PLAY CONCILIATORY ROLE VIS-A-VIS LIBERATION GROUPS.

AS NOTED ABOVE, RUIA HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN CORDIAL TO U.S. AND WEST. HIS VIEWS, THEREFORE, MAY BE SOMEWHAT MORE HOPEFUL ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION THAN MAINSTREAM HERE. OAU ALC HEAD MBITA, FOR EXAMPLE, IS MUCH LESS OPTIMISTIC (DAR ES SALAAM 1328). WHETHER AFRICANS GIVE SPINOLA HIS CHANCE MAY WELL DEPEND ON IMAGE OF SINCERITY ON ISSUE OF PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES HE PROJECTS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
BEYER

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